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BEATRICE HERFORD'S MONOLOGUES

IN THE ART MUSEUM

Oh, must I cheque my umbrella? . . . It's not wet . . . I only brought it because my niece was so sure it would rain . . . she would have come with me, but her little boy has chicken pox . . . I didn't think it looked like it, but she said she was certain . . . it looked so black and now the sun is out . . . she's so positive. I think I'd better put the umbrella cheque in my glove . . . I have so many little things in my bag I should never find it. . . . What shall I do if I come out at another door? . . . Oh, I have to come out this way? . . . It isn't my umbrella . . . it's my niece's . . . not *my* niece . . . my husband's . . . I've lost three this year, so I've given up having one . . . I forget where I leave them. I want to see the new Rembrandt . . . I forget the name of it . . . which way do I go? . . . Oh, it isn't here now? . . . It's gone out West. . . . It's in California, is it? . . . Why, my niece saw it here I'm sure. . . . Well, I expect to go to California some day . . . I want to see those big trees . . . my son is out there . . . he wrote me all about one tree he saw . . . he writes very good letters . . . this one he wrote me was three hun-

dred feet in diameter. . . . Well, I'll go up to the galleries . . . there are some other pictures I want to see. I go up these stairs you say? . . . and through the Egyptian rooms? . . . Thank you.

I wish I had a catalogue . . . perhaps I can borrow one . . . that lady has one. . . . Would you let me look at your catalogue? . . . there's a picture I rather wanted to see, it's called "Saturday Night" . . . a friend told me I must be sure and see it . . . "Saturday Night" . . . it might be those men drinking, but I hope not, I think it's a pity to depict such things. . . . They number the pictures so queerly . . . now there is "Cows resting in the shade" and right beside it "Nuns combing their hair." . . . Let me see . . . "Saturday Night" . . . there's a girl taking a bath . . . no, she's fifty-two . . . "A Modern Venus." . . . Well, I don't know what it could be, unless it is workmen or someone in a bath. . . . Thank you very much. I think I'll look round those next rooms. . . . Oh, here's something on the floor . . . a brass plate . . . twenty-five on it . . . it must be off one of the pictures . . . let me see . . . twenty-five . . . perhaps I can find the picture it fell off. There don't seem to be any without numbers. . . . Oh, there's one without a number . . . that must be it . . . I'll stick it in the corner . . . I'm glad I found it. There seem to be a great many pictures of animals and fruit in this room . . . that reminds me it

must be near lunch time . . . I think I'll go along.
. . . Let me see that's the staircase. . . . It is
raining after all . . . that reminds me I must get
my umbrella. . . . Will you give me my umbrella,
please, or rather my niece's? . . . it has an ivory
handle . . . or bone I expect . . . with a gold
band . . . or brass I suppose . . . Oh, can't I get
it without a cheque? I don't think you gave me a
cheque, did you? . . . Let me see now, where did
I put it? . . . I didn't put it in my bag. . . . Oh,
do you remember? . . . in my glove? . . . Oh,
now I remember. . . . Oh dear! I shall lose my
head next. . . . Oh *mercy!* . . . of course! . . .
it's raining so hard, I think I'll have another look at
the pictures . . . I shall probably find the cheque
. . . in my bag . . . I expect . . . I'll just go up.
. . . If the attendant sees me he'll wonder what I'm
doing. . . . How ridiculous of me not to know that
was my umbrella cheque! . . . and putting it on
that picture! . . . Oh dear! . . . I hope I can find
the picture . . . I must have the umbrella . . . it
was in this room I'm sure . . . it had animals in it
I know . . . a farmyard or something. . . . Oh,
now that attendant is watching me. . . . No, thank
you . . . I'm just looking for something . . .
twenty-five . . . twenty-five . . . the trouble is it
belongs to my niece . . . my husband's niece . . .
so I must find it . . . even if it wasn't raining. . . .
No, I'm not looking for a picture exactly . . . it's

my umbrella . . . or rather my niece's . . . I know there were sheep in it . . . but that's all I remember. . . . Oh, there are some sheep! . . . No, that isn't it . . . that's twenty-seven. . . . But I do want a picture . . . it's the cheque for my umbrella you see . . . or rather my niece's . . . I found it on the floor and I thought it came off a picture . . . it dropped out of my glove I suppose . . . and I put it on one that had none. . . . Do you know where there are any more sheep? . . . Or perhaps they were goats. . . . That's it! . . . over there . . . I remember now . . . they were goats . . . that's what made me say sheep . . . this is it . . . twenty-five. . . . That is an umbrella cheque, isn't it? . . . Well, I must hurry . . . I shall be late for lunch. . . . Thank you, I'll hold it right in my hand . . . you must have thought me crazy . . . but you can't always tell the sheep from the goats.

CHOOSING THE WALL PAPERS

I want to look at some wallpapers, please . . . my daughters were to meet me. . . . You didn't see two young ladies did you? . . . I told them to look for me in the blankets, but I didn't wait. I guess they'll be right up. . . . We have to choose a considerable number and then I want you should send a roll of each up to the hotel to see what Mr. Cheevie thinks. . . . He'll be down to New York tomorrow. . . . We live up at Oilville and we are just down here while our home is being fixed over. . . . We were burnt out this Spring. . . . Mr. Cheevie felt terribly about it. . . . It was what you might call the Old Homestead. . . . Mr. Cheevie's parents lived there most ten years . . . it nearly broke his heart . . . the water hurt it more than anything. . . . We went to live there when the old people died. . . . Mr. Cheevie did considerable to the house before that . . . he put on an elegant portcochere . . . but his Mother never lived to see it . . . she had a very short sickness . . . I think they're so useful in wet weather.

We drive a great deal . . . I presume it would be better if Mr. Cheevie walked some, but he uses his

brain so much. . . . Oh, here they are! . . . Well, girls, I thought you were never coming! . . . Now, Edna, you sit down one side of me and Adelaide you sit down on the other and this gentleman will bring the papers right here for us to choose from. . . . We'll look at parlor papers first. . . . There are two large rooms that open right out . . . I think we'll have them papered simultaneously. . . . Did you get your hats? . . . You didn't look at hats? . . . I thought you must be lookin' at hats. . . . Oh, are these parlor papers? . . . This gentleman will keep turning over and then we'll stop him when we see what we like. . . . That's a pretty paper. Do you like that? . . . That's a pretty one, too. . . . That one? . . . Not specially. There was one a little way back I liked . . . no, no, that's not the one . . . no . . . there I think that's it. . . . Well, it isn't what I thought . . . they look different going by quickly. . . . There, I think those ferns and carnations alternately are lovely. . . . You don't? . . . You see they don't care for ferns. . . . That one? . . . No, I don't care for it, it's too vague . . . I like something sort of indefinite and yet with a regular shape to it . . . I don't care for those foliage papers anyway . . . not in the house, I mean . . . I don't care for trees in the parlor. . . . Well, ferns aren't the same. It's quite customary to bring ferns into the house and put them in vases but trees are different. . . . Well, if you like it, we can have a roll of

the ferns and one of the trees sent up and see what your father thinks . . . he'll make fun of anything we get. . . . Now there's the libry . . . I thought of something classic for the libry. . . . If you'll show us what you think would be aprapo. . . . And I think, girls, we ought to have a bookcase . . . that table in the centre gets all cluttered up with everything and there's lots of books around the house could go into it. I think the libry is the place for books myself. . . . Oh, are these the libry ones? . . . I don't care for those feathers. . . . Oh, are those chrysanthemums? . . . Oh yes, and that's meant to represent that endorsed leather, I presume. . . . Well, of course, that's appropriate . . . I guess they bind a good many books in leather. . . . We haven't any, but I know they do have. . . . That green's real nice and that other's the same only gold. . . . Which do you like best, girls? . . . the green or the gold? . . . The green? . . . The gold? . . . I thought you said the gold first and then I thought you said the green . . . I think that's a handsome green . . . and that would go with the rubber plant. . . . Well, you can send up a roll of the gold and a roll of the green . . . as I say, he'll make fun of anything we get though. . . . Now what about the dining room? . . . I guess he's gone to get it. . . . Adelaide, there's no good looking for the papers that way . . . you can't go by the ends. You know Aunt Hattie chose a paper that way

once. . . . She was in a hurry and she just chose it from the end of the roll . . . she thought it was a sort of a tiny sprig pattern and she had it put on a little bit of a bedroom, and it turned out to be . . . let me see what was it? . . . Oh, yes . . . the Lakes of Killarney by Moonlight!

I'd like to get a landscape paper, but your Father won't ever have one . . . he says they make him feel inside out. . . . Here he is . . . I was just going to ask you to bring some fruit if you had any . . . I think it's lovely for a dining room. . . . You don't think so, Edna? . . . Well, Mrs. Baxter had fruit in her dining room . . . I noticed it at the funeral . . . and I said at the time I must remember that the next time we paper. It's too bad we have to paper the dining room again, it was papered fresh just before the fire . . . it was done just in time for my luncheon party and the decorations were lovely, too . . . that's the time I had the pointed setters in the middle of the table. . . . There, that's pretty . . . those cherries and birds. . . . Well, you don't either of you care for cherries. . . . That one? . . . Do you like that? . . . No, I don't. I never cared for those hunting scenes, specially in a dining room, I think they give you an awfully hurried feeling. . . . It is? . . . Well, I suppose if it's artistic we ought to have it. . . . Let me see, now there's my room and the girls' . . . the maid's rooms . . . I guess you could pick out those . . .

something bright and cheap and pretty . . . I don't care to make it too attractive . . . they're up there enough as it is . . . I'm going to have stripes and flowers for our room . . . I don't care whether it's artistic or not. . . . You can send some rolls like that . . . I guess we ought to be going . . . it must be about lunch time . . . of course, it don't matter when you do eat at a hotel, still if you put it off you're apt to drift. . . . You can come in another day, girls, and choose for your rooms and the guest room. . . . Yes, it's the Royal Plaza Hotel. . . . Thank you, and we'll let you know. . . . It's Mrs. Cheevie . . . it's kind of a big hotel, fourteen stories isn't it, girls? . . . so you'd better put the initials on it . . . Mrs. Abner J. . . . Come on, girls.

AT THE HAIRDRESSER'S

Good morning, Miss Van Randegger, it's a nice day, ain't it? . . . Oh, do you think so? . . . I don't think it's as cold as it was last week. . . . Is it just a shampoo you want or a treatment? . . . Just the shampoo. . . . Can I help you off with your coat? . . . This room ain't real warm . . . we've got a new janitor and he don't seem to understand the furnace at all. . . . The other one we had was fine but he just got to running the furnace real nice and he went on the stage . . . I suppose he'll get in some play about a furnace. . . . He couldn't take any other part at all. . . . Come right in here, Miss Van Randegger. . . . Your hair looks pretty good. . . . Lean over the bowl more, if you please. . . . It's a good while since you was in. . . . Your Auntie was in the other day . . . she's beginnin' to show her age now, ain't she? . . . But if you don't get too near'er . . . with her bobbed hair and her short skirts she looks quite young still. . . . Excuse me, please, there's the telephone. . . . Who is it, Katie? . . . Well, ask her to hold the line. . . . Well, how can I come when I'm just in the middle of Miss Van Randegger's hair? . . . It's one of them Miss Ty-

lers . . . I don't care for this one . . . if it is this one. . . . Oh, is it Miss Bessie? . . . All right, excuse me, Miss Van Randegger, I'll just speak with'er a minute. . . . Good morning, Miss Bessie, how are you? . . . Yes, I could come at six all right. . . . You want your hair for the dinner? . . . Well, what time is the dinner? . . . Well, that's time enough. . . . All right, Miss Bessie, I'll be there. . . . How's your mother? . . . That's too bad, but she's gettin' on, of course. . . . But her hair keeps nice, don't it? . . . I was just sayin' the other day there's very few ladies of her age could keep their hair on as she has and go through so much. . . . All right, Miss Bessie. . . . Good-bye. . . . Excuse me, Miss Van Randegger, that Miss Bessie's a great talker . . . I always call her Miss Bessie . . . tho' she ain't any more . . . she used to come to me when she was a little bit of a girl . . . she came in to have her hair cut . . . she hated to have it cut . . . and then she married this Mr. . . . I can't think of his name . . . you'll know it just as soon as I tell you. . . . Is it in your eyes? . . . Take this towel. . . . There was a little girl in here the other day and she kept rubbing her eyes . . . I told her to take them out and keep them in her lap, but she wouldn't mind at all and kept cryin' about the soap in her eyes. . . . The mother couldn't do nothin' with her . . . she was a nice lady . . . she just lay down on the floor and cried her head off.

. . . It's not her own you see . . . she has two of her own . . . she can manage them all right . . . this one belongs to her husband . . . I think he's younger than she is . . . they say he's worth a lot of money . . . his hair ain't gray a-tall . . . I don't know where he got it . . . but they say his father's wealthy. . . . You can sit back now, please. Mrs. Pingree was in the other day. I'm afraid her hair will never come in again . . . I think it's worry that done it . . . her brother gives her a lot of trouble . . . I tell her she ought to have a switch . . . but she hates to lay the money out on it . . . but as I tell'er . . . it would last her as long as she'd have the use for it . . . and it isn't as if it would get hard wear at all . . . there's only herself and her husband. Now my sister has a lovely switch, but she let's the children play with it . . . there's no switch made that's goin' to stand that kind of wear . . . I'll just get some hairpins. . . . Have you seen Mrs. Gayley lately? She was in for a facial the other day. . . . She's awful nervous . . . they say her husband's nearly worn out with 'er . . . the doctor ordered him to Europe for a complete rest . . . but she went with him! . . . There's the telephone again. . . . Excuse me, please. . . . Hello! Hello! Who is it, please. . . . Oh, you're a friend of Mrs. Peters'? . . . You want to come when? . . . At eleven o'clock, shampooed and waved . . . I can't say just how long it will take, if I knew the head I

could tell you. . . . All right, come in at eleven o'clock! . . . One of them high flyers rushin' from one thing to another and wants you to do her hair in five minutes. . . . Wait now, till I get some more hairpins. . . . Did you ever think of having your hair bobbed? . . . It might make you look a lot younger . . . there'd be no harm in tryin'. . . . Wait now till I put your little slide in the back. . . . Let me brush you off now. . . . Can I help you on with your coat? . . . Your hair looks pretty good, Miss Van Randegger, but it's hard to do much with your hair . . . it ain't one thing or the other . . . it's so thin and there's so little of it . . . you can't make anything of it. . . . Well, good morning, Miss Van Randegger. . . . You'd better come in when you can and let me give your hair a treatment. . . . Oh, are you goin' to California! Is that so! . . . Well, maybe your hair will improve in California . . . they say everything grows so out there.

MARKETING

Good morning. . . . Yes, it is a very nice day . . . I rather thought I'd have a duck. . . . Don't skate around here, darling, your skates will get all clogged up with sawdust . . . I don't know how long I'll be here. . . . You can run outside and play while mother does her ordering . . . I've got what on me? . . . Oh, the sawdust! . . . Well why didn't you tell mother her scarf was trailing . . . I guess it will shake out.

Thank you . . . that's very kind of you . . . I'm going to get a duck, darling. . . . He's brushing it off for me. . . . No my scarf dear. . . . What funny things? . . . Those are egg plants, darling . . . yes they are very funny looking . . . yes it would have to be a very big hen! . . . but they aren't layed . . . they grow . . . like cabbages, or beans or anything. . . . Now where's my man? . . . Oh I call him my man, dear, because he's the one that's going to wait on me. Oh there he is waiting on that lady . . . I thought he was getting my duck. . . . Well it will be my duck when I've bought it, don't be so literal darling . . . I can't explain it now, darling. I don't see why he doesn't

come and wait on me. No that's not his nightshirt . . . it's a coat he wears to keep himself all clean. . . . No he isn't very clean but it keeps his *clothes* clean. . . . Of course he has . . . underneath . . . I don't know darling, I never saw them. . . . Yes, he always wears the white coat. . . . Not at home . . . in the market. . . . Don't hang on so hard, darling, you hurt mother's arm . . . I would rather wait for my usual man, dear. . . . Yes I always have the same one, because I like him. . . . Yes I like him very much. . . . Which one? . . . The one weighing the lamb? . . . Why do you like him better? . . . Like Uncle William? My dear child! . . . I'm glad Uncle Billy can't see him, he would be flattered . . . I didn't say flattened, I said flattered. . . . He *would* be pleased. . . . Did I say would? Well I meant wouldn't. . . . Here he is, I was afraid you'd forgotten me. . . . That looks like a nice duck. . . . Don't poke it, darling. No, I don't think it looks like a little baby . . . I think perhaps after all I'd rather have some nice steak. . . . Oh there's Mrs. Harper. . . . How d'you do . . . fine thanks. . . . Darling, shake hands with Mrs. Harper. . . . No the other hand. . . . Well I haven't seen you since the wedding, wasn't it! . . . You did! That's what I told someone . . . I think everyone felt the same, but what could you expect, my dear. . . . Who? . . . Not *really*. . . . Oh that's *priceless*. . . . You *did*?

. . . I don't see how you had courage. What did she say?

Darling, don't keep bothering mother, I can't go till I've done my marketing; do you suppose it's true? . . . It doesn't seem possible. . . . Well you know what her own mother said. . . . Oh my dear, I don't think she'd mind a little thing like that. Darling don't keep pulling me . . . I'll tell you what I heard . . . oh must you? . . . Well I'll see you at the Garden Club on Thursday. . . . That Mrs. Hardy is to speak on "A Few Hints from Guatamala." Yes a little far fetched; good-bye. Now where's my man? . . . I wish he wouldn't keep going off when he's waiting on me. . . . That's rude, darling, I had to speak to Mrs. Harper and she always talks forever! . . . Yes, she's Johnny Harper's mother. . . . Now don't tell him I said that, darling . . . will you? . . . Oh, here he is, can you wait on me now? I'm rather in a hurry . . . have you some nice squabs? . . . Why don't you run out and skate on the sidewalk, darling. . . . Mother must do her marketing. . . . Look out, my dear . . . tell that lady you're sorry. . . . Come here. . . . Yes you were, you did! you pushed that lady right into that barrel of fish. . . . If you don't behave you can't come to market with mother again. . . . You don't. . . . Well you teased enough to come this morning. . . . Stand still while I take this piece of straw off your back . . . I'll have four

of those squabs and I was just thinking how a cauliflower would be, and I want two heads of lettuce. . . . Pick up your hat, darling. No, that's not pink celery, dear, that's rhubarb. Put it back on your head and don't chew the elastic. Hold this for mother, I want to pick out a nice head of lettuce. . . . Oh good morning, how funny! I didn't see who it was . . . I beg your pardon, no hurry. . . . Pick your head out first. . . . Yes they look very good. We always seem to meet here, don't we? . . . Yes I used to go there, you mean that little place on the corner? . . . Yes they had good things, but they were so fresh. . . . Oh no I mean the clerks. Good-bye, thank you, I'm glad to have seen you . . . I hope we shall. . . . Oh are you? . . . You poor thing! . . . you take gas of course? Who do you go to? . . . Oh really! . . . that's where the burglary was, wasn't it? . . . I had four out last week . . . it's a mystery how they got in. . . . My husband says it was an inside job . . . he has to have his little joke. . . . The police are so stupid, no they were all upper ones . . . very careless anyway . . . whoever had charge of them. Good-bye. . . . You have my sympathy. . . . Yes this lettuce and that cauliflower. I was just thinking whether I wouldn't have chops instead of the squabs, and I want two pounds of string beans. . . . Give me the list, darling, that's it, in the side of the bag . . . and two bunches of carrots, well Mother and Daddy

like them darling . . . and I almost forgot the spinach, well you have to whether you like it or not . . . one peck please. . . . Oh there's Mrs. Adams, I must speak to her about that rummage sale. Catch her dear, she's just going. . . . Good morning, you're going down to help at the rummage sale, aren't you? Well I can't come till tomorrow morning and I've done the most awful thing . . . will you do something for me please, you'll see a glass case of stuffed birds and a pair of awful pink and gold candlesticks . . . on the top of a sewing machine . . . they're right next to a big gold easel with a row of kittens on it . . . and I've just remembered they were a wedding present from that Miss Barlie. Yes she and her sister gave them to me, I've always known them you know and I like them but they're so hideous . . . no not the stuffed birds . . . the candlesticks. . . . Miss Barlie isn't coming till this afternoon . . . and if you could just hide them away somewhere till I come, you'll save my life . . . thank you so much . . . I'll take the chops, yes six please, yes as well as the squabs, no not the steak . . . nor the duck . . . now let me see, I think that's all. Oh some tomatoes . . . well how many are there in a pound? . . . Well then two I think . . . now that's all. . . . Oh some celery, and there was something she called after me just as I left the house, what was it? . . . Oh onions . . . now that's really all. . . . How much

does that come to? . . . Now where's that child! did you see her? . . . She got my *bag!* . . . oh just when I'm in such a hurry to get home! . . . I suppose she went out on the sidewalk, and I told her to stay right here! . . . There she is way up at the corner! . . . Darling! *darling! darling!* mother's bag! . . . *bag!* Mother's *bag* . . . come back! . . . you've got mother's bag! my *bag!* hurry up! *hurry!* give it to me *quick*, that was *very* thoughtless of you, darling, just when mother's all through her marketing and in a hurry to get home! to keep me waiting all this time!

THE TALE OF THE TRAIN

It was awfully kind of you to come up and help me. There was a friend coming to go with me and I was going to get her to hook me up. It was very lucky for me that you happened to be down there . . . I think you'll have to pin the sash. . . . Oh your husband is the night watchman, is he? . . . How nice his new uniform is . . . I hope it isn't tight . . . no, I mean the sash. I said to him the other day . . . if it is we shall have to piece it out with some ribbon. . . . Oh do you like my dress? I think it's nice for a hired one. . . . No I don't expect you have seen one like it. . . . You see I'm Mary, Queen of Scots, and it's not very comfortable . . . I know just how she felt . . . she was executed you know . . . I forget just what she did but Queen Elizabeth hated her. She was very hard hearted and when the poor people were starving, she said, "If they can't get bread, why don't they eat pie" or something like that. I wanted to go as someone nicer, a fortune teller or a Pierrot but the dresses were all too small for me. . . . Oh there's the telephone! . . . Oh I'm so sorry! . . . I forgot you were on your knees . . . I hope you aren't hurt.

Hello! . . . Who? . . . Oh yes, he's down there, is he? . . . well tell him to wait because I shall be down in a minute. . . . It's my cousin, he's going with me to the party . . . he might have hooked me up if he'd come sooner, he's just like my brother, I mean we're just like sisters . . . I mean . . . but he's no good at this sort of thing, I don't think men are, when everything hooked up the back I remember my husband trying to fasten my dress sometimes, and he'd always say it was too tight . . . but he always put his whole hand in under and expected to hook over that.

Oh there's the telephone again! . . . Hello! . . . my dear boy I *am* coming! . . . I shouldn't have, only I thought I *was* coming right down . . . I *am* coming right down! . . . Well, if I *said* in a minute you know I didn't mean it. . . . Well, my dear boy, if you wouldn't keep calling up and interrupting me I might finish dressing . . . I thought we weren't going till the 6.40 train. . . . Did I say 6.30? . . . Well you should have looked it up yourself . . . I do know the trains! It's either 6.30 or 6.40. It's 6 something I know . . . I know it's not before 7 anyway and I know there isn't another till 9 something. . . . Well, why don't you go round there and come back? . . . I only meant if you want to . . . I shall be ready in a few minutes. . . . Well, do as you like, only don't telephone up again. Did you get the costume you wanted? . . . just a

domino! Oh that's what men always do . . . I've got a wonderful costume! If you'd called me up I would have told you where you could get a costume. . . . You didn't know my new telephone number? . . . I'm Mary, Queen of Scots . . . it isn't in the book. . . . All right, I'll be ready.

Now I'm all fastened . . . thank you so much. You can tell people you saved Mary Queen of Scot's life. . . . No but really you have . . . I don't know what I should have done. . . . Goodnight, yes I'm all right now thank you.

How I'm ever going to get my cloak over this is more than I know . . . I'll just ring for the elevator and then put my cloak on, it's so slow coming up. . . . What a wind there is in the hall. . . . Oh mercy there goes the door! and my train's caught. . . . Oh what shall I do! . . . Perhaps I can make the elevator man hear me when he goes by next time, it's banging up and down the whole day and now of course nobody wants it. There it comes, I wish I could whistle . . . I never can and I don't know his name, that's what comes of nicknames . . . always calling him the Walrus! . . . I'll never have an apartment again with the elevator round the corner! . . . Stop! stop! . . . Oh I beg your pardon! I was just calling out to the elevator. . . . No I don't want to go down . . . I wanted it to come here . . . I mean the man to come here. I'm just waiting for this door to be opened. . . . Thank you but it's

no good ringing . . . I mean there's no one inside . . . I was so afraid I shouldn't catch my train . . . I ran out to ring for the elevator and I caught the end of it . . . my train I mean. . . . Would you go down and ask the janitor to come up? . . . he probably has a key. . . . Oh there's my cousin. . . . My dear, I'm caught. . . . Yes, of course I was going to wear a cloak . . . I suppose I must look funny. . . . Yes, I am ready . . . of course I wanted to catch that train! and I caught it by trying to catch it . . . I mean to save time I ran out to ring for the elevator. . . . No the elevator man doesn't have a key. I suppose he's gone down to get the janitor, we shall have to wait till that 9 o'clock train. . . . My dear boy, if I got out of it, I've nothing else out here to put on! . . . you're not very bright . . . I hope they won't wait dinner for us out there . . . I suppose we ought to send a wire and say we'll go straight to the Hall where the ball is going to be. . . . Yes I know where it is. . . . Get a bite on the way to the station! . . . My dear do you see Mary of Scots in Childs or any other place? And she'd want Scotch broth I suppose, and shortbread. Well, we'll have something sent up. Have you got a pencil and a bit of paper? . . . No you can't . . . their telephone's out of order . . . I tried a little while ago. . . . What shall we say? . . . Oh you can't put that, it sounds so silly! . . . Florence caught in the door! They may think I'm

hurt, and if you put Florence's dress caught in the door, they'd say, "Well, couldn't she put on another one?" Let me see . . . Florence caught outside the door! . . . They'd say, "What was she doing?" and "Who caught her?" What's that you're putting? . . . Train caught in the door! . . . My dear boy, they'll think you mean the railroad train. Who ever heard of a train caught in a door? . . . Marvelous! I know . . . just put "Impossible to get away." That sounds like a real telegram and it's true . . . for once. . . . You can put "sorry," of course and all that. We can explain at the party.

There's the janitor! . . . Have you a key for this door? . . . No, I never thought of trying the door, it locks when you shut it. . . . Yes, unless the catch is up. . . . Oh how silly, the catch was up all the time. . . . Did you ever? . . . That's a joke on me! . . . The most provoking thing though is that janitor! . . . Why he's being so smart about that catch on the door. . . . Did you see the way he looked when he walked off . . . his shoulders shaking? . . . I'd rather have stood out here all night than have him find out how stupid I was. . . . Oh because he thinks he knows everything and he's so down on women!

THE MAN WITH A COLD

Well, here I am, dear, how's the cold? . . . Did you think I was never coming back? . . . Oh that's good, he's asleep . . . I'll take my things off and put my parcels away . . . I hope he'll like these flowers. . . . Come in, sh . . . sh . . . yes, he's asleep! Take these packages. . . . Take care . . . shut the door quietly. I think I'll put this shawl over him . . . I don't want him to get more cold. . . .

Oh I'm so sorry I woke you, dear! I thought you ought to have something over you. . . . Of course you were asleep. . . . Did you hear me come in? . . . Oh you didn't! . . . Did you hear Mary put the wood on the fire? . . . I know you didn't because you were snoring in the funniest way. . . . How do you feel . . . too warm? . . . I expect you do. . . . No, it isn't hot in here, you're a little feverish with your cold and then going to sleep always makes you feel warm. . . . All right, I'll open the door if you want. . . . How do your eyes feel? . . . Would you like me to read to you? . . . all right, I won't! . . . Would you like to try that new card game? . . . All right, dear, we won't! . . . No, I don't care, you said you wanted to try it some-

time, so I thought. . . . Why of course I'd like to play . . . I meant . . . I mean if you don't want to, I don't mind. . . . All right, we won't play. . . . You want the door shut again? . . . All right I'll shut it.

Who do you think I met when I was out? . . . Uncle Henry! He seemed very well . . . no, how stupid of me! I never told him you were sick. . . . Well, you ought to be glad, dear, you're sick so seldom I forget all about it . . . I don't mean I forget it really, but . . . I mean when I'm not with you. . . . Now, that's mean to say that . . . you know I don't, I love to have you sick. . . . Well, you know what I mean, dear, I mean I don't mind your being sick at all. . . . Well, of course I mind it . . . I mean it doesn't trouble me. . . . Well, of course it troubles me but . . . Uncle Henry is bigger than ever. . . . He was full of his new house . . . that's why I couldn't get a word in. . . . Oh, I've seen the loveliest hat. . . . What? . . . No, you don't look pale, you look all right. . . . It's green round here. . . . *No the hat!* It's the very latest shape and has just one small . . . You're not listening at all . . . you want the door open again? . . . All right. . . . You want another handkerchief? . . . All right, I've got some here. . . . You don't want that pillow? . . . All right I'll take it away. . . . Is that better? . . . No? . . . Want the pillow again? . . . Now, how's that?

. . . You want what? . . . the shade up? . . .
All right, but won't the light bother your eyes?
. . . Too high? . . . All right I'll pull it down
. . . not so far? Well I'll stop it where you tell me.
. . . There . . . how's that? . . .

All right, I guess you'd better take your medicine now. . . . Yes it is . . . it's after the time. . . . Oh yes, you must . . . the Doctor said so. . . . No, I don't think it's all nonsense. Well, you don't like to be thought not sick and if you're sick you've got to take medicine. Let me see . . . yes, it's on the bottle . . . fifteen tablespoons in a . . . no, it can't be . . . wait . . . it's all right . . . fifteen *drops* in a tablespoonful of water. . . . Yes, I can. I've dropped lots of things. Now then . . . one . . . two . . . three . . . don't talk . . . four. . . . Now you see! I've got to begin again! . . . One . . . two . . . three . . . no, cold water . . . four . . . five . . . six . . . yes, between meals . . . seven . . . eight . . . twelve . . . fourteen . . . there that's near enough! . . . I think I can guess at the water. . . . All right I won't. . . . Here's a spoon. . . . There, now take it . . . come on take it! Don't sit and look at it! don't think anything about it! . . . There! . . . that's it. . . . Oh mercy, what a face! . . . I'm sure it isn't as bad as all that. It's exactly what I took when I had the flu . . . I rather liked it. . . . Yes, he does, he thinks you've got a touch of it so you'd better look out and

do what he says or you may be in for weeks!

I wouldn't stand over by that window, dear, there's an awful draught there, and if you get more cold you may . . . Well, I care! Now just sit down in the big chair, and I'll make you comfy, here put these cushions behind. . . . All right I'll take one away. . . . You don't want any of them? . . . All right. Would you like me to play to you? I'll play those new things I tried the other day. . . . Why, you said you loved them. . . . All right I won't. What *would* you like? . . . Well I'm sure I wish you *could* go out, dear, I'm sure I should be perfectly delighted if you . . . never been in a day in your life before? Well be thankful you haven't! and you haven't been in a day yet. . . . *What!* . . . It feels like a week! Well, that's complimentary to me! . . . No, I won't come over there, I hope to goodness you never will be in for a week! I don't know what you *would* do. . . . No, I *won't* come over there! . . . I *do* know, haven't I ever had a headache? And even if you have that's no reason to be . . .

I cross? Why I'm not cross at all! You do say the most extraordinary . . . Come in. . . . Oh is that the paper, Mary? Thank you. . . . Oh I think he feels better, Mary. . . .

I'll see what there is in the paper. . . . Doesn't seem to be any special news. What was the name of that Mr. Parker you used to know? . . . Oh, well,

it isn't the one . . . it doesn't give his age. . . .
Oh no, only married. . . . Oh here's that old Mrs.
Watts . . . how glad they'll be. She's been ill for
such ages, a terrible trial, wouldn't do anything the
doctor told her to, and all that. There seems to be
so much diphtheria about just now. . . . Your
throat doesn't feel sore does it? . . . Don't keep
doing that, you'd know if it did. . . . The markets?
I haven't come to it yet. Why! . . . why! Well, I
never, I wonder if Fannie has seen this, enormous
sacrifice, five thousand yards . . . positively half
the original cost. . . . I must phone Fannie about
this. . . . Oh here are the markets. "Today's Chi-
cago Market . . . Special Dispatch to the Evening
Post. . . . The wheat market today has been nar-
row by comparison with that of yesterday. . . .
The local cash market is relatively strong. . . .
Local receipts are 170 cars against 94 a week ago
and 205 a year ago. The local contract stock in-
creases 988.00 . . . bushels . . . for the week
. . . and . . . public . . . and . . . private eleva-
tor stocks are . . . 21 . . . thousand . . . no . . .
21 . . . million . . . no, I guess it's thousand
. . . no, it must be million . . . yes, 21 million,
184 thousands bushels. . . . The corn market has
been easily in sympathy with wheat (laughs) How
kind! . . . (laughs) Oh this is lovely! . . . Oats
are dull and featureless! (laughs) Oats are dull and
. . . sh . . . sh . . . he's asleep.

THE HEIGHT OF BLISS

(The scene of this monologue is in the garden of a pent house on the roof of a high apartment building in New York City. There are boxes of gay plants and under an awning a hammock and table and chairs. It is early in the morning on a very hot day in August. The Lady of the pent house is leaning against a casement window and talking to her husband who is in the house.)

What a heavenly morning, could anything be lovelier than the sun on that new tower. . . . You sound as if you were enjoying your bath, darling . . . I'm going to buy some of that sea salt Daisy told me about to put in our baths . . . it has "Let the Ocean come to you" on the box, I expect to find a piece of a wreck in the bath some day with the "Carrie M." on it . . . I shall write a poem probably called "Ships that pass in the Bath."

How far did Mary say they had to walk to the beach from that cottage they've taken? . . . No, more than that, she said in her letter they had to walk half a mile across some fields, I remember because she said there were some frightful sort of flies

in the sand doons that bite their legs as they walk through the grass, I hope Mary will write often, if there is anything that makes me feel absolutely satisfied to be in town, it's Mary's letters.

If you're not ready for breakfast, dear, I think I'll just run over to Third Avenue and get some of those delicious string beans . . . they have them fresh every morning. . . . I mustn't forget to send Mary the canned peas and I think I'll put some insect powder in with them, she says there are the greatest lot of horrible little ants running round in that cottage. . . . What else was it she asked me to send? . . . Oh, yes, Witch Hazel and mosquito netting, she said the mosquitoes are terrific. . . . That's what I love about this place, we don't have to have any screens.

I think I'll water the geraniums before I go to the market. Oh, mercy, there goes another hat six in two days is going some or blowing some, I got that off before you did anyway . . . what do you say. Oh, you hat to laugh . . . yes, I get it. . . . Well I'm going to blow myself to two dozen at the Ten Cent store today.

Oh, are you ready for breakfast? . . . then I won't go to market till later. . . . I was afraid it was almost too cool to have breakfast out this morning. . . . Oh, that's all right, I can put my sweater on.

Mary said it was so hot at the seashore she's

mailing home all their sweaters and coats . . . the cottage is so tiny they just take up room. . . . No, she said they couldn't get any lobsters, they are all shipped away. . . . Wasn't that a delicious lobster last night. I don't think there's as good fishing anywhere as on Third Avenue. I think we'll have lobster every day now while they're so cheap. . . . Poor Mary she loves lobster . . . I wish we could get her up to town for a night, I'm sure the change would do her good, it's been so hectic for her getting settled and fighting all the mosquitoes and ants and everything. . . . By the time she's really settled their month will be nearly over, if it hadn't been for Jim and the children she never would have gone down there I'm sure, it would do her good to have a nice cool night up here in town.

How devine it was last evening . . . I hated to go in to bed . . . the moonlight on the River. I shall never forget it. . . . I'm going to have another blanket tonight . . . are you going to sleep out in the hammock again tonight, darling? . . . I would, there won't be so many more nights you can. . . . There was something Mary said in her last letter, darling, that I didn't tell you . . . I was afraid to . . . I was afraid you'd . . . I was afraid you'd say you . . . Well, I'll tell you . . . she says they've decided to come back to town on the twentieth and that we could have the cottage . . . yes, mosquitoes and everything, for the rest of the

month. . . . Mercy, nothing would induce me to go down there . . . well I thought you'd feel the same, there's no need to get excited about it . . . they don't bite you though and I just thought it would be getting cooler up here all the time and I know you hate the cold, I was afraid you might want to run down to the seashore and get warmed up.

THE TEA

Well, let's sit down and rest a bit now . . . everything is about finished . . . I know I am. This is the moment when you wonder why you ever thought of giving a tea . . . I don't know what I should have done without you to help me, darling. It's all very well in the City but in a small town like this it's no joke. . . . (*Telephone rings.*) Now, what's the matter? Hello. . . . Oh, yes. . . . Well, it didn't sound like your voice. . . . Of course, you must bring your aunt . . . I mean your aunts. . . . Oh, yes, I shall be delighted to have them all come. . . . That's lovely of you to say so. . . . See you later. . . . Where we are going to put all these aunts and cousins and people I don't know. I wish I hadn't put the name of the singer on the invitations, I'm afraid it's going to be a perfect crush.

I'm glad we decided to put the piano over there because now you see we can put the roses on it and put the dahlias over there and the asters on the bookcase . . . that reminds me I must put Mr. Tobin's picture somewhere because she's coming and she asked me the other day if we liked it. Of course, I had to say we all adored it . . . I'll send Nora

for it. . . . Nora, please go up to the upper guest room and in that closet under the eaves . . . behind a box I think . . . there is a picture of me. . . . There are some others of cats and fruit, but you'll know which it is because it's in a round frame.

What is it, Katie? . . . Put anything anywhere you like if you won't ask me another question. . . . You can put our tea kettle at the end near the window and tell Thomas when he goes to the station to meet Mr. Soarenski he's to call at the Women's Exchange for the sandwiches and at Mrs. Clark's for some punch glasses and get the kettle on the way back . . . I've borrowed Nellie's kettle. . . . She's sort of sensitive so I thought if I borrowed her kettle she'd feel she was in it . . . I've asked Kittie Hamilton and Jennie Munster to pour. It was rather hard to decide. . . . It's so hard to get anyone who looks pretty and is careful, too. I thought of Minnie Bliss . . . she's a splendid pourer . . . never spills the tea or anything . . . but she's so awfully unattractive! . . . I do hope we've got enough sandwiches, but I'll tell you what I'm going to do . . . I'm not going to have the whole programme before tea. When they've been out in the dining room long enough for everyone to have all they really *need*, I'm going to have some more singing. . . . If you have the tea the last thing people go on eating forever.

Well, this won't do. I must get the flowers finished.

I suppose we've got to put those hydrangeas of Adelaide's somewhere. I hate hydrangeas anyway. . . . Against the bookcase? . . . I think they ought to be against the law. . . . We'll put them against the fireplace in the hall and then she'll see them when she comes in and we shan't have to see them. . . . (*Telephone rings.*) Hello! . . . Oh, yes . . . he brought them. We think they look stunning in the fireplace in the hall. . . . No, there's nothing like hydrangeas! It was sweet of you to send them! . . . Yes, we're nearly ready . . . we've been fixing the flowers on the tea table. . . . Oh, did you? . . . Well, we've arranged it now with yellow chrysanthemums. . . . We thought the hydrangeas would be seen more in the hall where everyone comes in. . . . Yes, of course everyone goes in the dining room . . . but they would be so busy eating then . . . they wouldn't notice them so much. . . . Well, I'm afraid we can't change them now. . . . Why, of course I wanted them . . . don't be silly! . . . What makes you think so? . . . Of course I like hydrangeas! And I never saw such huge ones! . . . Good-bye. . . . You'd know I was telephoning to a sister-in-law, wouldn't you? . . . (*Laughs.*) Yes, I always forget I'm one myself.

Perhaps Mr. Soarenski won't like flowers on the piano, but I don't think he is as artistic as all that . . . I thought of having a printed programme but I decided not to. . . . But I've got a list of what he

is going to sing. . . . Here it is. He's going to sing first, "Oh Love, Dear Love," "My Love is Like the Spring," "Oh Lovely Love," "Tell Me What Love Is" and "Love is Like . . ." something or other . . . and then "Oh to be Here When Love is . . ." somewhere. . . . "How Could I Ever Love Thee." . . . Oh, no. . . . "How Could I Ever Leave Thee." . . . "Love Me Young, Love Me Old," "If Love is Love, Then Love is . . ." something . . . "My Love is a Bore". . . no, "My Love is a Star." . . . No, there doesn't seem to be much variety but he says that is the best programme for an afternoon tea. . . . I think people like to see him as much as to hear him, and it's so hard to get him where everyone can see him. . . . If he stands at the end of the parlour, only half the people in the library can see him and if he stands at the end of the library nobody can see him in the parlour! I thought if he could stand partly in one room and partly in the other it would be nice . . . I mean part of the time . . . sort of move about, don't you know, then everyone could see him some of the time. . . . Yes, I suppose he wants to be near the piano, but look how they walk about in opera! . . . That reminds me, if Mrs. Tyler comes in that beaded dress of hers, someone must see that she has a soft chair. At that meeting here the other day she scratched that mahogany chair so that I had to have it all repolished.

What is it, Nora? . . . Yes, have all the spoons

out. Thank goodness, we don't have to borrow any spoons . . . and not a souvenir spoon among them. . . . That's one thing people won't be inflicted with in this house! . . . I was having luncheon at Aunt Mary's the other day, and nearly every mouthful I took I had to run my tongue over Grant's Tomb, or up and down the Flatiron Building.

Now, I'm going to fix these flowers if I die in the attempt. . . . Sometime I'm going to give a tea and have the flowers I like. . . . Give me a tall vase, Nora, and I'll see if I can do anything with these. . . . Poor Nora! She's the most good-natured creature. . . . Well, there's one thing, we don't have to have anyone from outside to help. . . . I get so tired of seeing that Mrs. Bussler that everyone has. . . . Nothing goes on in this town without her. . . . I feel as if I was asked to meet her sometimes. . . . I'm sure they find out if she can come before they invite anyone.

There now! . . . You see it's impossible to make those flowers stand up. . . . It was very kind of Mary to send me the last flowers in her garden, but they were the last flowers I wanted. . . . I shall just put them in front of Uncle Dan's picture and twine them around it. . . . Well, they'll know he isn't! Because they'll see him at the tea. . . . (*Telephone rings.*) Hello! . . . Who? . . . Oh, yes, hello! . . . Oh, your cousins? . . . Oh yes, I remember them, but I didn't know they were with you

now. I thought they had gone. . . . Of course, I'm delighted to have them come, but haven't they stayed longer than usual? . . . Of course, I'm delighted, I was only surprised that they were still here . . . I mean . . . that's why I didn't ask them. Tell them how it was, won't you? . . . Good-bye. . . . Goodness, look at the time! . . . It's a good thing we had lunch early . . . we've only just time to dress. Think of those three able-bodied cousins on the top of everyone else. If it wasn't for my new dress I should give up.

AT THE OPTICIAN'S

I want to ask about some reading glasses, please . . . I don't think I really need them but my husband thinks I do. . . . He says I hold books and newspapers way off and that's a sign . . . I think our eyes are about the same and he has a pair we both use off and on.

Would I have to have those heavy rimmed ones? I think they are so clumsy looking. . . . What are those amber colored ones? . . . those are rather pretty looking. . . . They're not celluloid are they? . . . I think it's so dangerous . . . I wouldn't want them if they are. . . . My cousin had some lorgnettes once, they were a present so of course she thought they were real tortoiseshell, I don't know what was the matter with her eyes and she just laid them on the radiator and they went right up in smoke.

Oh, you have aluminum? . . . how funny. My cook ought to have those . . . she wants everything aluminum . . . I should think they would be light, I know saucepans are . . . but I don't think I should like to wear them . . . I might forget I had them on and it's bad enough when you have to . . . I mean have to wear them.

Oh, you want me to take a test? Oh, those letters? . . . I can read those easily . . . E . . . G . . . F . . . L . . . N . . . J . . . I can read things a long way off, for instance I can always tell when it's a cross-town and when it's a Boulevard car, ever so many blocks away but my husband got right onto a Boulevard the other day before he knew it. I said now you see or rather you don't . . . fortunately he hadn't paid his fare . . . that was farsighted, wasn't it? . . . Oh, you want me to read those things over there? . . . all right. . . . "A heavy sea . . . was rolling . . . the . . . something . . . was on the bridge." I can't see the Captain very plainly but it must be the Captain though it might be the First Officer . . . I remember the last time my husband and I crossed. . . . Now that one? . . . all right.

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a people to . . . Now the next paragraph? . . . all right . . . "and to assume among . . . the Powers of the earth". . . it's rather hard to see the Powers of the earth. . . . Oh, it isn't necessary? . . . Those oratorical speeches are rather hard to read anyway . . . it sounds rather familiar . . . I ought to know who made it. . . . Oh, of *course*, the Declaration of Independence . . . that reminds me, my husband and I have such good constitutions so I don't think there can be much the matter with our eyes, do you? . . . Yes, I'll try

some on. . . . Oh, I look a perfect fright in them!
. . . I don't think I'll get any at present, thank you.
I was just going by and I thought I'd see if there
were any that I'd look nice in. . . . Thank you very
much . . . good morning. . . . You see my hus-
band's eyes and my eyes seem to be about the same
so if there is anything very small I can borrow his.

CHANGING THE WEDDING PRESENTS

I want to see if I can change some things, please . . . they were wedding presents . . . I know we shall never use this . . . you see we *never* eat sardines. . . . It is a sardine fork, isn't it? Or knife? It seems to be a sort of combination of the two. . . . It's funny my husband is the only one in his family who doesn't like sardines and I'm the only one in mine . . . it's funny we should happen to . . . We weren't sure whether it was a sardine knife or a paper cutter . . . it's awfully ugly whichever it is . . . and we've got ten paper cutters . . . or we did have . . . I've given away two and changed three. Do you like sardines? . . . No, I don't see how anyone can. . . . What could I change it for? . . . Some coffee spoons? could I? . . . An Aunt of my husband's asked me what we wanted and I said coffee spoons and she gave us a paperweight. . . . Oh, I couldn't get coffee spoons? . . . Oh, I see, that sardine thing didn't cost very much then. . . . Well, of course, we didn't give them anything much. . . . We have some coffee spoons, but they bulge out in a queer way and won't stay beside the cup . . . not by our cups anyway . . . and they

make my husband so cross so I want to get some others if I can. We only need half a dozen . . . I never take it . . . at least I'm not supposed to . . . I usually do when it comes though. . . . My husband never liked the people that gave us those coffee spoons, anyway. . . . We could change them only they are marked . . . they came from here . . . they only have "S" on them . . . I should think they could easily be sold. . . . There must be lots of Smiths being married all the time.

(Covering the sardine fork with her muff.)

Why, how d'you do? . . . Yes, we've been back about a week . . . I'm just seeing about some things being marked. . . . Oh, that's very kind of you, I might have brought it in to be marked myself . . . I didn't think of it. . . . Oh, no, it was the only sardine fork we had. . . . It's such a useful thing. . . . How *did* you think of it? . . . It's so hard to take them up with anything else. . . . Yes, it gets them out so nicely without breaking them . . . and the fish's head on the handle is so appropriate. . . . Oh, that's very kind of you to think of it, but we wouldn't think of changing your present. . . . What an *idea*! We'll get it marked some time. . . . We are going to have some other things marked. . . . Oh, no, nearly everything we had was just what we wanted. We had very few awful things. . . . We were very lucky. . . . Yes, it must be dreadful to have things you never use and don't know what

to do with. . . . You did? . . . You have? . . . Well, I think that's the most sensible thing to do. . . . What's the use of keeping things you'll never want to use? . . . That's the way I felt about a sard . . . about one or two things of ours. . . . We never eat sard . . . I mean there are things we never eat like sard. . . . Does Mr. Sard . . . I mean Mr. Gardner like sardines? (*Becoming almost hysterical.*) I don't know why I ask that . . . speaking of your present I suppose made me. . . . He doesn't! How funny! . . . Oh, I don't know why I was just thinking that. . . . Who, my husband? . . . Well, he's not crazy about them any more than I . . . he eats them, of course. . . . Oh, no, I shouldn't *think* of changing it even if we didn't eat them . . . I like to see it on the table . . . and you can't have too many paper cutters . . . I mean . . . It looks a little like a paper cutter . . . that's what made me say that. . . . What lovely weather we're having, very unhealthy. . . . Yes, cold weather is . . . I meant healthy . . . I'm glad to have seen you. . . . Good-bye.

Now, where's that clerk? I was terrified for fear he'd say something. That was pretty quick work my putting my muff over that sardine fork. . . . Oh, there you are. . . . Will you show me something I could get instead of this fork? I want to change this spoon, too, perhaps I could get one nice thing for that and this spoon. . . . What is it meant for?

It's the most frightful looking spoon I ever saw. . . .

Why how d'you do! I was just thinking of you, because . . . I know you often come here. . . . What a beautiful day it is, isn't it? . . . Well it was, yes, I forget it was raining now, but the rain may come out again . . . I mean the sun may stop . . . I mean come out, of course. . . . Who? Jack's mother? . . . She's all right, thanks. . . . Oh, no, she isn't. . . . What am I thinking of? She's quite broken down . . . sort of nervous prostration. . . . We've been awfully worried about her. . . . Oh, I think she will . . . she's naturally so wealthy . . . I mean healthy . . . that I think she will. . . . She's been going it too hard, bridge, you know, morning, noon and night . . . I think she broke down over the bridge. . . . Thank you, we had a lovely trip. . . . Yes, we're nearly settled. . . . Oh yes, we love our apartment. They're such sunny spoo . . . rooms. . . . You *must* come and see us when we are all settled. . . . It was awfully nice of you to give us something we can use all the time. . . . You must come and see how your spoon looks some time. . . . Yes, that is like your spoon. . . . It is like your . . . My *dear!* It is your spoon . . . I wondered if you'd notice it . . . I'll tell you what I'm doing, you'll be so interested, but you musn't give me away. . . . No! I don't want to change that spoon. What an *ideal!* . . . That clerk is so stupid . . . the idea of his thinking I wanted to change that

lovely spoon of yours. . . . No, I want to change that sardine fork for another spoon *like* yours. . . . It was awfully kind of the Gardners, but they are so oily . . . and we never eat them and I'd hate to offend them but I know you won't say anything. . . . So I thought I'd bring your spoon and see if I could get another like it instead of the sardine fork, you see . . . I thought it would look so nice . . . the two spoons together on the table. (*To the clerk.*) Oh, will it be more? . . . Well, that's all right. I'm not surprised . . . I really expected . . . of course . . . I thought I should have to put something to it to get another spoon . . . I said if I even have to put something *to* it, I *won't* have that spoo . . . I mean I won't have that sardine thing. . . . Why, that's awfully nice of you. . . . It would be nice to have the spoons marked, but I can see to that. . . . No, really, I'll have them marked, thank you just the same. . . . Well, good-bye . . . and now you know how much I liked your present. . . . You thought that! . . . I was afraid when you saw the spoon you'd think I was changing it. . . . The *idea!* . . . Change your present. . . . Why, I shall always call them *your* spoons.

THE COMPLAINER

I want to speak to the proprietor . . . or the manager . . . please, how soon do you think he will be down here? . . . Oh he isn't in the hotel at all? . . . Oh I thought I understood you to say that he wasn't in but that he wasn't out . . . I mean out of the hotel. . . . No . . . no one else will do . . . I just wanted to ask him something . . . I suppose the night clerk isn't here . . . is he? . . . I spoke to him about it when I came in last evening . . . so he would know. . . . Oh, yes, I suppose he's sleeping . . . I don't see how he can sleep in the day time . . . I never can. Is there any mail for me? I was expecting a letter from my sister, she usually writes me Sunday . . . I'm afraid she's got a cold. I miss it when I don't get her letter . . . I'm always afraid of it settling on her chest. I wish I could have my mail in another box . . . that box next to mine always has so much in it, and at first I always think it's mine. . . . They either get a great deal or else they don't call for it. It always seems to be full anyway. . . . Oh, your box number corresponds with your room number? . . . Oh, I see . . . I didn't know that. Well, I may change my room so I'll wait and see. . . . If anyone calls me

on the telephone I shall be over at that desk. I'm going to write some letters.

Oh, I wish you would send one of the boys up to my room and ask the chambermaid for my rubbers, and tell her to be sure and lock the window on the fire escape. . . . I'm always afraid of burglars, if they're not in the closet they are probably behind the door. I shall need them now. . . . It's raining.

I don't think the telephone is working in my room. . . . I called down several times and couldn't seem to get any answer. . . . It doesn't matter now. I called down once to know the time and once to know if it was raining.

"Oh, good morning, Mrs. Reed. . . . How are you? . . . That's good. . . . No, I don't feel very well today. . . . I think it's the same thing I had last spring. . . . Yes, I've tried that. . . . I've just been trying some medicine a friend recommended . . . but it's as bad as ever. It was such a nice looking bottle too, sort of an odd shape. I'm growing a piece of ivy in it. . . . It's in the joints. . . . Do you have it?"

I'd like to go South if my sister and her husband would go with me. . . . I have it in my arms very badly. . . . I couldn't go without them. . . . I don't like to travel alone. . . . I think Bermuda would be nice though I dread the voyage. . . . I shall see what the doctor says. . . . It's apt to be rough.

Have you been out today? . . . Is it still raining? . . . Oh, have you been there? . . . How is she? . . . Well, I guess she's glad she had it out, now it's all over. . . . Yes, I've been out and come in again. . . . I'm going out again if the rain lets up. . . . Oh, isn't the elevator running? . . . It was all right when I came down. . . . I was going to do some shopping and take my lunch out, but if it's wet and the elevator isn't running I guess I'll eat and got out after . . . if it stops.

I thought some of looking for a hat. I saw one in a window that I liked, but I can't remember the street. . . . It's just the shape I like. . . . It has a fruit store on one side of it. . . . If I can remember it I may get it. . . . Oh, you're not detaining me. Come in and see me some time. . . . I may change my room . . . that mouse has been again. . . . I'm waiting to see the proprietor. . . . I've set a trap for him, but you can't fool them. . . . I think they know it's a trap. . . . Well, come in and see me some time.

Boy! will you please put up that window, it's right on my back. . . . How soon do you think the elevator will be running? . . . What's the trouble? . . . No matter, don't bother to explain it to me, I wouldn't understand anyway . . . but it's just as provoking. . . . I suppose it's the motor. . . . Well, I should think they would keep a lot of motors on hand. My nephew thinks it isn't a strong enough

motor . . . the horse power . . . or something. . . . I don't understand about that horse power business anyway. . . . I can see that anything running on the ground, like cars or trains could be compared to so many horses . . . but how anything going upright can be reckoned by horses!

I think I'll get some postals. . . . Will you give me some postals, please? . . . Oh, you only have the one of the hotel? . . . Oh, at the newsstand? . . . of course . . . I remember seeing them there. . . . Well, I'll take half a dozen of these of the hotel. . . . Does that show my window? 310 . . . I want to mark my window for my niece. . . . No, that must be the bathroom window . . . the window is round the corner on the avenue. . . . Well, I can mark it and say, "one of my windows." . . . I can't explain very well on a postal! . . . I'll take these then and I'll go over to the newsstand and get some others.

You've got some new postals, haven't you? . . . Let me see. . . . That's the ten cent store . . . I mean the Woolworth Building. . . . No, I don't want that. . . . I'll take this of Grant's Tomb. . . . That's a nice one of Central Park but isn't there one without any high buildings? . . . I wouldn't mind the high buildings if there were squirrels in them. . . . Is that the Statue of Liberty? . . . No, I don't want that. . . . If you'll hold Grant's Tomb for me I'll see if I can find a better

one of the Park with some squirrels. . . . What statues are those? . . . I suppose they are overfed . . . but they're dear little creatures. . . . There, I'll take these five, please. . . . Oh, are they three for ten cents? . . . Well, then I'll take another Tomb. . . . It will do for someone. . . . That's a ten dollar bill. . . . I haven't any. . . . I want some change myself. You have theatre tickets, don't you? . . . I don't know. . . . I may want to go sometime. . . . Yes, someone said that was good but there's a pistol in it I believe. . . . I can't go to anything like that even though I know it's coming. . . . It startles me just as much. . . . It's like the Fourth of July, I never go out the day before or on the day.

I wonder if the elevator is running yet. . . . Oh, there's the new manager. . . . He'll do but I can't remember his name. . . . Oh, yes, that's it. . . . I wish they'd keep the same one. . . . I'd just got used to the other one's name when they changed.

Good morning, I've just been asking if you were around. . . . There were one or two things I wanted to speak about . . . one thing is the radiator in my room. . . . It has been making that horrid noise again. It wakes me up every morning at six o'clock. . . . At least . . . I suppose that's what wakes me because it's too late for the ash carts and too early for the milk. . . . No, it's not the steam coming on. . . . It's not a sizzling noise at all . . .

it's a cold metallic sound. And . . . then another thing. . . . It's so dark in the hall near my room. . . . Well . . . that's it. . . . That red light doesn't give any light. . . . Why not have a white light. . . . Well, I should think a red light could be put on when there was a fire. . . . I may see you about changing my room anyway. . . . I mean about changing to another room. . . . I've been thinking about it . . . when I could hear myself think. . . . It's pretty hard to have a piano under you and a dog over you, and that mouse has come again! . . . Oh, the engineer came before and he couldn't do anything, they don't seem to care about cheese any more. . . . All right . . . send the engineer. . . . I'll try him with a little bacon. . . . Well, I expect you're busy and I see the elevator is working now. . . . I rather fancy those rooms on the other side. . . . Oh, are they all on the elevated? . . . Well, I couldn't stand the noise of the trains, I think they are even worse than a piano. . . . I wouldn't mind having my bath on the elevated but I couldn't sleep on it.

TELEPHONING THE DOCTOR

Oh, good morning, Doctor, I won't keep you more than a minute. I know how awfully busy you are, but I just want to ask you one or two little things about baby. . . . Oh yes, he's all right, only somehow he doesn't seem as lively as I'd like to have him, you know how lively he can be. . . . I shall never forget the day he kept grabbing at your moustache. . . . Well he seems sort of quiet. I don't think there's any need for you to come 'round but I thought I should feel more comfortable just to ask you one or two things. . . . The reason I felt he wasn't quite up to the mark was because he didn't seem to care about the things in his bath this morning and I had a new rubber duck and he hardly noticed it at all. . . . I hope I'm not detaining you, Doctor. You see last summer when we were up on that farm, the ducks seemed to amuse him more than anything so it seemed so unnatural for him not to show interest in the rubber one. It's really awfully life-like! . . . Mrs. Dabmey told me about them, I think you know her, you went there once when her little boy had croup. . . . She's a little woman with rather prominent teeth . . . she remembers you

anyway . . . it's right in this block, her husband's an architect . . . it's rather a unique door . . . anyway she says you pulled him through, and she'll never forget. . . . Doctor, you must tell me if I'm keeping you.

What I specially wanted to ask you is whether . . . this is quite confidential, Doctor . . . the baby's granny . . . my husband's mother . . . gave baby a bonnet and she's awfully sensitive. I know she'll feel fearfully hurt if we don't use it, and it comes way down over his ears and someone told me it was bad for them. . . . What do you think, Doctor? . . . It's such a pretty bonnet and of course she's devoted to baby but if it's going to be bad for his ears . . . I'm afraid I'm keeping you, Doctor. Oh I know what I wanted to ask you, if it isn't any colder tomorrow than it is today, would it be all right to take baby to have his picture taken? . . . You see the thing is I want to have him wear that cute little dress my school Alumnae Society gave him. I think I showed it to you once and the trouble is it's quite a little thinner than his other dresses, but he does look so sweet in it and I've got to send one of the pictures for them to put in the Club Album. I'm rather proud of it because it's the first boy born in the class. . . . They all contributed to it and got a really nice one . . . not one of those horrid plush things but good leather and brass corners that will last. . . . Oh that's all right, Doctor, I thought

you were right there. . . . I was saying, if it isn't any colder tomorrow than it is today, would it be . . . Oh, that's all right, Doctor, I'll hold the line. . . . Katie, I think baby's crying, please go up, I've got to speak to the doctor. . . . Oh hello! Doctor, I was saying if it isn't any colder tomorrow than it is today, would it be all right to take baby to have his . . . Perhaps I'd better call you up another time, Doctor, when you're not so busy. . . . Yes I know that you're always busy. . . . I think it's wonderful the way you keep going. I'm always afraid you'll have a breakdown and then what should we poor mothers do? That's why I always say that you must tell me frankly if I'm bothering you. . . . My husband thinks he's driven to death, but I always tell him he has an easy time compared with you, rushing from one patient to another and in the night even, too, and frightened mothers calling you up on the phone every other minute, and getting you to come every time their baby sneezes or coughs. I said to a friend the other day, I shan't mention any names, I said: "There's one thing about me I don't send for the doctor for every little thing. If there is anything I'm in doubt about I just call him up and find out what to do." . . . What, Doctor? . . . Oh yes, what I called up now for was . . . isn't it funny? . . . I can't think what I called up specially for. . . . Oh dear! . . . How stupid! . . . my husband is always telling me to make a

note of things, but I think if you get into the way of writing things down you get to depend on it and it's bad for your memory . . . isn't it? . . . Oh I know now what it was. . . . If it isn't any colder tomorrow than it is . . . Oh they've cut me off, isn't that tiresome! . . . Well, I can't waste any more time now. . . . I'll call him up later.

IN THE FLOWER SHOP

I want a few flowers to take to a friend . . . just a few . . . it's only a mild attack of flu, I think. I ought to have taken her some before, I'm afraid she's almost well. . . . Yes, roses are always nice, how much are those roses? . . . How much? . . . Six dollars a dozen! Oh, mercy, that's too much. . . . What do you call them? . . . General Pershing? No . . . I don't want anything so expensive. . . . I don't believe it's anything really more than a bad cold. . . . I wonder why they always name them after Generals. . . . I don't believe in coddling them. . . . How much are those buds? . . . Three dollars a dozen? Well, let me see, three of those would be . . . ? Seventy-five cents you say? . . . Why, three times seventy-five cents would be only two something, wouldn't it? . . . Never mind, I expect you're right . . . you must know . . . you're doing it all the time. But I'm afraid they don't look quite enough. . . . Oh, no I don't want any ferns with them . . . no . . . I don't like ferns, I mean in the house, it's different in the woods. But I have a friend who's crazy about ferns, if she has guests she always puts them in the fire-place.

. . . No, I don't think I want a plant. . . . Hydrangeas? I didn't know they grew indoors, I don't like them anyway, they sound so like plumbing. . . . I was wondering about carnations . . . they keep so long, don't they? . . . I'm having a few friends to tea this afternoon, if I used them on the tea table this afternoon they'd still be fresh to take to anyone tomorrow, wouldn't they? . . . Oh, they wouldn't be in a warm room, I don't keep my rooms hot at all, now my sister is just the opposite, I tell her she keeps hers too hot, but she has neuritis very badly, and very little sun in her rooms . . . it's mostly in her arms and they are very dark and gloomy. . . . Some people don't like that odor of cloves in carnations but I always like it, my sister, not the one with the neuritis . . . she can't bear the smell of cloves in carnations or the taste of them . . . but she has a very peculiar sense of smell, she's always thinking there's a dead rat in the wall, or even in cake, I mean the taste of cloves. . . . Well, I think I'll take eight of those rosebuds, that will be . . . ? \$2.00? Oh, will it? Well, I can use some of them for my tea. I ought to have taken her some flowers before. It will be just my luck to find she's all well again.

IN THE HAT DEPARTMENT

Something for your mother? . . . Oh, yes. . . . Well, I think I have just what will suit her. . . . Be seated here, Madame. . . . Now here's a lovely little shape . . . let me just place it on your head. . . . Don't that look sweet on her? . . . See how nice it sets down behind. . . . Oh, no, my dear, that's not too small for you. . . . Well, we'll try some other little style. . . . Now here's a beautiful little hat, a little French model. . . . I think this will suit Madame very nicely. . . . There! Wouldn't you think that was made for her? . . . It's a very ladylike little shape, too. . . . You can wear one of those little hats beautifully, dear, because your head's so small. . . . You think your head's large? . . . Well maybe it is. . . . Well, all the large heads are wearing those little hats this season. . . . But if you want something with a little brim to it, I can show you something in that style that I think would suit you nicely.

Miss McGilligan, will you bring me the little gray hat with the beret crown. . . . They're in the farther case . . . if I remember rightly. These little hats she's getting for you to see are quite exclusive.

They have a brim and yet you'd never know it. . . . They're very smart and the brim isn't featured at all . . . but some ladies specially when they're older, I don't know what it is, but they feel the need of a little brim. . . . Thank you, Miss McGilligan. . . . Now let me place this on your head. . . . Miss McGilligan's just lost her mother . . . she's a sweet girl . . . everybody in the department feels very sorry for her bereavement . . . she was only in here just the week before getting a little hat for herself and I guess she only had it on her head a couple of times . . . it was a very unusual little shape. . . . We never know what's coming to us! It was a very expensive hat too . . . but I presume Miss McGilligan will enjoy it herself when she gets to feeling better.

Now don't you like that on your mother? . . . Gives her height, I think. . . . Miss McGilligan, don't you think Madame looks lovely in that hat? . . . Gives her height, doesn't it? . . . That's what I was telling her daughter, she looks lovely in it. . . .

Excuse me please one moment. . . . Marie, will you please go up to the work room and tell Miss Pearl that Miss Blumfeld says that Mrs. Hamill don't want the moire rosettes on her hat . . . she just phoned in . . . and listen, tell her to have Mr. Slater make out a detailed delivery slip for it and a retention order blank because it's got to go out

this afternoon . . . and tell her to put a Suburban Receipt tag onto it . . . she's going to an aviation wedding and it's got to be up there at three o'clock. . . .

Now doesn't that look lovely on her? . . . Oh, you think that sets down too close behind? . . . You see your hair's so thin right there you've got to have something over it. . . . I'm surprised how well that hat looks on you . . . with your hair. . . . That's not too young for you . . . real old ladies are wearing those hats this season.

What is it, Mr. Harris? . . . Yes, I took that order . . . the lady came in Monday. . . . She said that? . . . Well, all I know is I sent her a delay notice card. . . . I made it out myself. That's where the trouble came in . . . they had the order slip up in that department and Mr. Crust said they would write out a new return order and enter it for Wednesday . . . whether he did, I can't tell . . . that's not my business . . . but I don't see why Mr. Hicky can't make out a new order slip and send with it now. . . . But I don't see where the trouble came in. Hasn't he got a record of it on his books? . . . They must have a delivery time slip of the goods in the work room. Who is it that attends to that department? Miss Pearl, isn't it? . . . Well, she ought to know about it. . . . Well, I'm sick of the whole thing and I don't consider I'm to blame. . . . Well, I don't know about that, but I know I'm not

. . . maybe they were out of detail order slips and used a return mail blank instead of a retail delivery check . . . better telephone and find out. . . . We have the greatest time with orders like that. . . . There was a lady the other day . . . she got a hat . . . it was to wear that evening . . . a real stylish little hat and she had it sent out on a rush order. . . . Well, it seems her sister . . . she's not a regular customer of ours, but she's a very nice lady . . . she bought a lamp shade in the store the day the hat went out . . . do you see? . . . and she had it sent to her sister's . . . and she saw the box and her sister was out and she thought it was the lamp shade and she took the box and carried it out to the country . . . the hat, which she thought was the lamp shade . . . but it was the hat. . . . I don't know as she was able to attend the reception, but she got her hat. . . . It was all straightened out. . . . Now how do you like that? . . . It looks lovely on her. . . . You like your own hat better? . . . That's a great deal more becoming than your own hat . . . those hats like yours, even when they were in style, were never becoming. . . . Here's a neat little hat with a little mink head. . . . Oh, you think it's cruel? . . . Well, it's all over now. Well, we'll try this other little shape. . . . You see your daughter likes it. . . . Now doesn't that look sweet on her? . . . No, it was the other one that was \$16.50. This is just \$18. . . . Oh, that's nothing for that

hat, Madame. . . . Don't she look lovely in it? . . . Well, you'll never regret it. . . . Yes, that's the even change, thank you. . . . I'll just take the address and that will go right out this afternoon. . . . I'll see to it myself. . . . Oh "West!" I thought you said "East" . . . it's easily changed. . . . Good morning, come again. . . . Well, you can take either elevator. . . . Miss McGilligan, will you put these hats away, please. . . . Yes, she took the little black one . . . she'll look as well in it as she could in anything.

THE YOUNG RECITER

Oh, I do think it's *too* sweet of you to come. . . . I know how awfully busy you must be, I hear you have three matinées a week now! I've been to see you three times and I'm taking some friends on Saturday. I did *so* want you to come today, because I've been teaching my little boy a little piece to say to you and I'm so afraid he'll forget it if we put it off any longer. . . . I do so want to know what you think about his being an actor . . . he's always imitating people and I think he's quite remarkable. . . . But we must have some tea first. . . . No tea! . . . Well I suppose you don't eat when other people do; I think that must be the hardest thing about acting . . . having to have your dinner so early. Well, I'll see if I can get Reggie. . . .

Parker . . . please tell Martha to ask Mary . . . to tell Susan . . . to bring Master Reggie down. . . . Don't say there are people here, tell him there are nice cakes. . . . Oh, he's only five but we think he's quite wonderful! His father wants him to be a lawyer but I think if he has a decided gift for acting we ought not to discourage him. . . . He's *such* a mimic. . . . Yes, I think he will be a

comedian, he gets the furnace man's walk exactly, but I'm so fond of Shakespeare myself, of course the furnace man is awfully funny but I'd love to see him as Hamlet. . . . Here he comes. . . . Oh, Reggie, walk nicely, don't do that, come here, darling . . . all right, thank you, Parker. . . . Darling you'll tear Parker's tie if you pull so hard . . . let Parker go . . . yes, Mummy wants Parker to bring some more tea . . . no you can't go with him. . . . Reggie! . . . see these lovely cakes . . . you can give some to the gold fish if you'll say your little piece . . . he adores the gold fish and he's so soft-hearted, he wouldn't touch a mouthful of lunch yesterday till he'd fed the gold fish. . . . What do you say, Reggie? . . . The gold fish are dead? . . . Oh, no! I saw them this morning! . . . You did *what*? . . . You put them down the . . . Oh, mercy! . . . never mind. . . . Reggie . . . I don't want to *hear* about it! . . . I want you to say your little piece. This nice lady says pieces just like Reggie . . . no, she's not going to speak a piece . . . that's rude, Reggie! . . . You're going to speak one for *her*. . . . Well you shall have a cake after you say your little piece . . . all right, two cakes. . . . Now don't keep all these ladies waiting, darling. . . . Yes, Uncle George wants to hear your piece, too. . . . Don't tease him, George. Now, Reggie, "On a Mossy Bank," go on darling. . . . No, Uncle George doesn't want to be a bear today.

. . . You want Uncle George's watch? . . . Well, will you say your piece if Uncle George lets you hold his watch? . . . You won't drop it? . . . Promise Mummy? . . . Well we'll hold it together, here it is. . . . Now, darling . . . "On a Mossy Bank a little violet," you know it, dear . . . "On a Mossy" . . . What do you want, dear? . . . Well, whisper to Mummy. . . . Oh, he wants a mossy bank to stand on. . . . No, Uncle George doesn't want to be a mossy bank. . . . What darling? . . . He says he has a bank. . . . What, darling? . . . He says he has \$2.00 in his bank. . . . Now you stand on this little stool, we'll play that's the mossy bank. Now begin . . . darling, "On a Mossy Bank a little violet," . . . yes that lady has violets . . . now . . . "a little violet grew." . . . Won't you say it, darling? . . . What is it? . . . Well, whisper to mother. . . . Oh, I'm so sorry, he doesn't like so many faces. . . . Would you mind turning around? . . . Now, darling . . . there are no more horrid faces . . . we'll begin at the beginning. . . . Now, Reggie, say "On a Mossy Bank" . . . If you'll say it you shall have three cakes . . . yes, pink ones. . . . Well you say it just to Mother . . . that's it . . . "a little violet grew" . . . "Seen by tiny elfin eyes," . . . no, not pies, darling, "eyes!" . . . that's it . . . go on, darling . . . all right . . . I'll cover my eyes. . . . Can't you say it a little louder, dear? . . . Well say it so that

Mumsy can hear it anyway. . . . "Mr. Winter now has come" . . . yes, that's it . . . "snow and ice" . . . no, not ice cream, darling . . . that's it . . . no, not bicycles . . . "Icicles!" . . . That's it. . . . Oh, you can all turn round now. . . . Yes, he's said it. . . . Oh George, I think he said it splendidly. . . . Uncle George must be getting deaf, darling. . . . I think it was wonderful his learning it all. He really has a very good ear, I think he'll do something with the piano by and by. . . . Oh must you go? Well it was sweet of you to come. . . . Oh, Reggie, you've eaten all the cakes! and come away from the piano, dear, you'll get the keys all sticky . . . come here . . . I want you to make a nice bow to the ladies. . . . I do wish you could have heard him really nicely, he wasn't in the mood for it today. . . . You will come again, won't you? . . . Goodbye. . . . He really does it best for the servants, they say he makes them roar with laughter. . . . If you could come and hide in the kitchen some time you could hear him splendidly.

THE BOOK AGENT

There's no name, thank you, if you'll just tell her a lady would like to speak to her, please. . . . She wouldn't remember me by the name. . . . Oh, good morning. . . . I was just saying you wouldn't remember me by the name. . . . I'm delighted to find you at home. . . . It's such a lovely day, most people are out. . . . I think the last time I saw you it was at a wedding . . . lovely wedding, wasn't it? . . . Oh, you don't remember? . . . Well, I don't blame you . . . there was such a crowd, but I never forget a face . . . once seen a face haunts me forever . . . not unpleasantly . . . but I know people are different. . . . Now my sister never could remember a face, but then Mother couldn't and she takes after Mother more than the rest of us do. . . . It's a gift, as I tell her and she can't have everything. . . . She has one lovely little girl . . . maybe you've seen her. . . . Well, I ought to explain. . . . I mean seen her in the advertisements. . . . Sister brought her up on that Miller's Food . . . it just saved her life . . . and Mr. Miller has her printed right out in the leading magazines. . . . She's just taken quite simply in her little nighty with "My

Darling after Treatment" written in Sister's handwriting underneath. . . . She writes a lovely hand. Oh, yes, I'm going to tell you right away what I came for. . . . I want to show you this beautiful Album we're bringing out. . . . I know how interested you are in books. It's called "The World's History in Wood and Stone." Of course, all the buildings depicted are not confined to that material exclusively . . . there is a great deal of iron work used, I presume, in many of the buildings both past and present . . . and will be in the future, no doubt. . . . That's just the title. . . . Where is there a title that tells the whole story? . . . You won't find it. . . . Don't think I want to run down the title . . . no one can feel more than I do that it's one that must and will urge the public . . . the knowledge seeking public . . . to open and peruse the interior matter where the gems of architecture and art will repay his or her every look, I feel sure. . . . You never buy books? . . . Perhaps you're all for music. . . . Well, there's music contained in this. . . . Who is it has said that "Architecture is Frozen Music"? . . . Well, I don't go as far as that myself, but I can see it's a beautiful saying. . . .

You were just getting ready to go out, were you? . . . Well, you mustn't let me keep you. . . . I'll just turn over and show you there's something lovely on every page. . . . Now there's the Parthenon . . . very old, I should judge, but so monotonous

. . . so many of those pillars. . . . My Sister's new house is ever so much like that . . . it has just those similar pillars. I do love pillars. . . . They break up the landscape so beautifully and they're so handy for trailing anything over. . . . Of course, I'm fond of standing plants. . . . Who isn't? . . . But they grow so high and there's an end of them . . . whereas a vine or a trailing thing you can follow right around a pillar or over the roof of a house and it's always interesting. . . . Now we come to some of the Gems of Art taken in their well-known attitudes. . . . There's the Laocoon. . . . I presume you know that. . . . It's very fine, I should judge, but intricate. . . . I couldn't make it out at all and I asked my Sister what she thought it portrayed. Well, she said, "I guess they're firemen, but how they got tangled up in the hose that way I can't think." . . . Well, you see what a wonderful collection it is of all the world's greatest treasures . . . all the principal buildings, Churches, Cathedrals, Palaces, Ancient Temples, Domes, Pagodas and Mausoleums . . . to say nothing of all the celebrated Statuary taken in the antique bas-relief or standing right out. . . . Ten dollars with the box. . . . Why, that's nothing for a work of this kind, you show your ig . . . or you could have it on the installment plan \$2.00 a month till you've paid up. I'm sorry I haven't got one of the boxes with me . . . they come in plush of every color. . . . You

don't care for plush? . . . Well, you're the first lady I ever heard say that. . . . And placed in a window recess or on a table of its own where the sun can strike the plush cover, it's a beautiful ornament in any room. . . .

You're in a hurry to go out? . . . Well, I mustn't keep you, but I don't feel I can go till you decide to take this book because I have a feeling you want it. . . . We don't always realize ourselves what we need. . . . Two dollars a month makes it easy you see. . . . Well, one dollar down if that's all you've got in the house and three dollars the next time. . . . That's all right. I'll just make out this slip and you can sign it. . . . I thought I'd bring you round and you'll never regret it. . . . You've got an engagement? . . . Tiresome things, aren't they? . . . Well, I shall go right along now. . . . What colored box shall I send you? . . . You don't care? . . . Well, I never heard a lady say that. I think a green would look nice in your room. . . . Good morning. . . . It will be about a week before you get it and place it where the sun will strike the plush cover. . . . Good morning. . . . I hope I haven't kept you.

RADIO PUDDING

I guess it's most time for that church service to begin, it's broadcasted 'bout eleven o'clock. . . . Go wash your face, Johnny, and put them tools away, Willie, it won't do you boys no harm to listen. It's rainin' so hard you can't git out and you've got the rest of the day to play. . . . Don't you want to set up nearer the radio, Pa? The rest of us can hear anywheres. . . . Get out of that armchair, Willie, and let your Pa have it. I told you to wash your face. I want yer Pa to set in it so he'll be next to the radio. . . . Seems to me to get deefer every day, Pa. . . . See what time the kitchen clock says, Johnny, it's most time, I guess. . . .

Ain't you most through in there, Abby? . . . Well, come just as soon as you git the puddin' in the oven . . . it was real good last Sabbath. . . . I hope it's the same quartette they had last time. . . . You don't want to miss that soprano, I think she had a real fine voice. . . . It wouldn't hurt a mite to put it in the oven right away, hurry up, Abby, it's beginnin' now. They're singin' your favorite hymn, don't forget to shut the draught . . . it sounds real nice . . . did you put plenty of raisins in? . . . I

love that hymn . . . last time it didn't have no vanilla in it and it wasn't near so good.

Set down there, Abby, you didn't miss much of anything . . . seems to be kind of a pause now. Maybe they're passin' the plate . . . guess Pa don't mind missin' *that*. There's the soprano now, I guess it's the same one as last Sabbath. . . . What's she singin'? It's beginnin' to smell real good, Abby, how long you goin' to give it? I think likely you'd better take it out before the sermon. . . . She's singin' "Oh Source of All Our Joys." I think hard sauce would be good with it. . . . I'd like less of the organ with it, it keeps drownin' out the voices. . . . Maria Gibbs was tellin' me of a new sauce they use. . . . That tenor's voice is real sweet . . . it's something between a hard and a soft . . . kind of foamy. . . . Keep still, Johnny, we can't hear when you do that . . . it's the prayer now. . . . I guess you'd better go in the kitchen during the prayer, Abby, it has a way of rising up and running over and Pa won't like you gittin' up in the middle of it. . . . Take your feet off that chair, Willie, and take it out of your mouth or stop chewin'.

He certainly is a great hand to pray. . . . Wouldn't you be more comfortable on the lounge, Pa? . . . It's real inspirin' . . . it lifts you right up. . . . No, I'm all right here. This rocker's real comfortable since I put that new cushion in it. I just seen the Bixby's drivin' by. I guess they eat up to

her folks most every Sabbath . . . they do say he's as close as the bark on a tree. They was tellin' up to Ella's the other day that when they was talkin' of operatin' on his father's leg, he asked if it would be cheaper to have it cut off. . . . Where you goin', Johnny? . . . Well, you don't need to, the canary has water and it won't hurt you a might to set an' listen to this sermon. . . .

Take it easy now, Abby, set here on the lounge . . . is the puddin' all right? It's the sermon now . . . the one last Sunday took most two hours, but I guess the oven warn't so hot as 'tis today. . . . Is this the same man preached last Sabbath? . . . He sounds awful loud and excited, I don't care for those rantin' preachers. . . . No, there's nothin' burning, Pa, it's the sermon. . . . I don't smell nothin'. . . . What's that smoke in there, Abby? . . . Look! Good heavens! It's the puddin'!

THE MIX UP

This is the number, darling and there's the sign "Apartments to Rent." . . . I rang the bell. . . . I expect the rent will be too high . . . perhaps that's the janitor fixing that awning up there . . . do they ever come down? . . . Oh I meant come down in the rent. . . . Oh, I wouldn't call to him, it might startle him and make him fall. . . . Well, couldn't we attract his attention in some natural way? We could be calling a dog or something. . . . I don't think it's silly. I'll call him, "Danny, Danny, Danny" . . . now you see he's seen us. Tell him we want to look at the apartment. . . . What does he say? . . . Well, tell him we haven't any dog. . . . There, he's disappeared so he must be coming down. We won't tell him I was pretending about the dog, he'll think us such idiots. . . . Here he is.

We're looking for an apartment. . . . Oh, didn't you hear? We called out to you that we hadn't any dog . . . it's all right we haven't any. We were only calling him, I mean he won't come. . . . Oh, I don't mean he won't come when we call him, I mean he won't come at all . . . that's what we mean . . . we haven't any. I used to have a dog

and sometimes I forget and call him. Well, anyway we want an apartment, but we don't want to go very high. . . . Oh, I don't mean the apartment, I mean the rent. . . . The third floor! . . . There's an elevator, is there? Oh, yes, I see, well we'll look at it. . . . Oh don't you have an elevator man? 'I don't like this kind very well do you, darling? You know where Laura lives they have one and there was a woman who was always forgetting to send it down again. They were always having to go up after it. . . . This is a nice entrance and what a nice large living room and how sunny, isn't it? . . . He says the sun's here nearly all day. I don't think we can afford so much sun, darling, can we? . . . How much is this apartment? . . . Eighteen hundred. . . . That can't include the sun, dear. That's more than we meant to pay but we'll look round. We must be sure there's room for your mother, dear. . . . Yes, I see there's only one bedroom. I think your mother would go under these ceilings, don't you, dear? You see where we are now, we have to keep my husband's mother on the ice chest . . . the pantry ceiling is higher. . . . Oh, I ought to have said, it's a bust of her and she's coming North this fall and we hate to have her see where she is, that's why we want to see where she'll go. . . . This is a nice little kitchenette, isn't it? And it's quite light. . . . It looks onto a little court. . . . See, dear, if you lean out of the window and

hold on and look up, you can see the sky . . . where we are now, we just look onto an old bachelor. . . . Nice pantry, isn't it, darling? This is where the provisions come up, I suppose. . . . I don't see any dumbwaiter. . . . Oh, it's up above? We have to join at it with the other people then. But I should think there might be a mix up sometimes, we might get the wrong things sometimes. I don't think that's very convenient. I remember Laura said they got into an awful mix up once at their apartment when they had one dumbwaiter. The lady in the apartment above them was having some people to dinner and there was just one dumbwaiter for everybody. and the things Laura had ordered went up there and their things came to Laura's. Hers were just a few simple things and the lady upstairs came home late. I guess, and the cook, I suppose, thought her guests weren't coming. Anyway, she hadn't ordered anything more and the lady was enquiring frantically at all the apartments for her lost dinner. By that time some people had turned up at Laura's and stayed for dinner and Laura just thought the market man had fortunately sent more than she'd ordered and she was delighted and they were having dinner and the lady from above burst in. She was nearly wild and she forgot her hair was in curlers. . . . They were in the middle of the soup and Laura had never seen her before. She said to Laura, "If you'll just give me the oysters . . ." They were all fearfully

embarrassed and one of Laura's friends, an awfully amusing man, said, "Why not phone to Emily Post?" You see they'd eaten the oysters . . . and then she went into the kitchen and called out, "This is my lamb!" . . . and Laura's sister Daisy got laughing so she choked and they all had to give her water and slap her back and Laura cut some slices off it and she took some grapefruit and vegetables and went back to her apartment. . . . That's why I don't like joining at a dumbwaiter. . . . I wish the rent wasn't so much. . . . Yes, I know, dear, it's more than we meant to pay, but no one ever pays what they mean to, darling. . . . Well, thank you very much. . . . I guess we'd better think it over. You say the electricity and the gas are extra—but not the sun! Good morning. . . . There he is up at his old awning again. It's just what we wanted, darling. It's too bad we brought him down, but we didn't know it was so high. They are going up all the time, I suppose. They never come down, do they? . . . I'm sorry, dear, I do seem to mix things up. . . . I was talking about the janitor, but I meant the rent.

